



Commanding Officer 1st Battalion, 12th Marines Suicide Prevention Policy



Accomplishment is our number one priority; however, we cannot accomplish the mission if we let the Marines entrusted to us needlessly harm themselves. Suicide is the second-leading cause of non-combat related deaths in the Marine Corps today. Statistically, our Corps has a higher suicide rate than all other U.S. Military branches. Suicide prevention must be one of our considerations as we train, go on liberty, and go to war with our fellow Marines.

Suicide is the second-leading cause of non-combat related deaths in the Marine Corps today and one suicide is too many in our Corps. Statistics show that Marines and Sailors are more vulnerable to suicide during their first term of enlistment, during holiday seasons, and during deployments. If you hear anything that implies someone is contemplating suicide, never assume that they are kidding or joking. Do not minimize the matter and never promise them that you will keep it a secret. It is your obligation to get them help immediately using any means available. Use the chain of command so we can be informed about the situation and get help. Never leave a person alone who is contemplating suicide. Talk to them and let them know that you care and want to help.

Suicide is a leadership issue for everyone. Do not hesitate to inject yourself and assist your fellow members of 1/12 if you believe they are showing any signs of suicide or depression. If you are the one experiencing depression or thoughts of suicide do not hesitate to talk to someone. I understand the Marines and Sailors are not known for their willingness to ask for help. You cannot go through everything on your own. At some point during life everyone needs a friend or someone with whom they can confide in.

I would prefer you utilize the chain of command. However there are multiple resources outside the chain of command available if you prefer. These include, but are not limited to, Marine Corps Community Services, Base Medical, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, a 24-hour civilian suicide hotline (1-800-SUICIDE), the Veterans Crisis Line, a 24-hour Marine Corps suicide hotline (1-800-273-TALK), our battalion chaplain or surgeon.

For additional information on suicide prevention, contact the 1/12 Chaplain, LT Williams (257-0902) or our Surgeon, LT Lebenson (257-1144). Use any resource available. Bottom line is we will take care of each other at all times.